

The President's Daily Brief

6 March 1970

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

There has been a new flare-up along the Lebanon-Israel border. (Page 1)

More on the running confrontation between Jordan and the fedayeen. (Page 2)

Moscow

Finnish

(Page 3)

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A realignment of some Chinese military units in South China appears under way. (Page 4)

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LEBANON

There has been a new flare-up along the Lebanon-Israel border.

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An Israeli spokesman also told the press that there had been a clash with fedayeen "near the Lebanese lines" in which one Israeli soldier was killed and two wounded.

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JORDAN

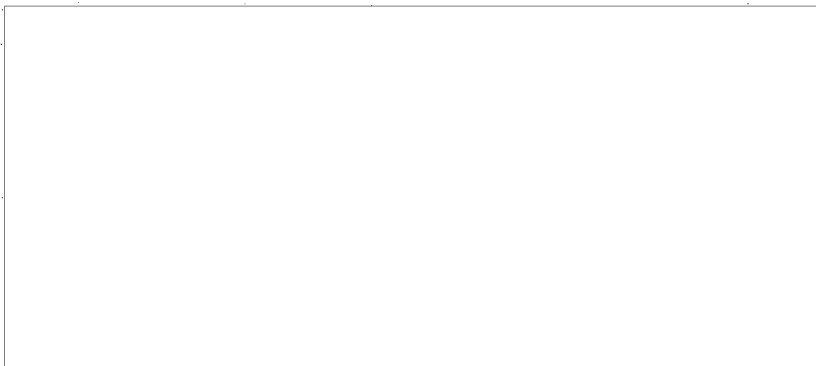
Negotiations between the regime and the United Fedayeen Command on the implementation of the compromise agreement of late February were scheduled to begin on 4 March. The talks will center on who controls the commandos in Jordan--a key point deliberately left vague in the compromise agreement. The fedayeen are insisting that they merely agreed to discipline themselves and should deal with all offenders in their own courts; the government, however, intended to allow the fedayeen to deal only with internal squabbles.

The confrontation between the regime and the fedayeen has now entered a new and crucial stage. If serious problems arise in the negotiations, more trouble is possible. The army is reportedly still bitter and resentful toward the fedayeen as a result of last month's clashes. Commando leader Yasir Arafat, for his part, seems convinced that the King intends to use the army to crush the fedayeen movement in Jordan. Arafat is said to be eager to avoid a showdown, but splits within the ranks of the fedayeen could give a louder voice to the more extreme factions.

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FINLAND-USSR



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COMMUNIST CHINA

Peking appears to be realigning some of its military forces in south China. Since early February the communications of two Chinese armies in Yunnan Province have shown irregularities, including the passing of alert signals and standby operations.

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The purpose behind this ground force activity is unclear. It could reflect a state of heightened military preparedness in the area or could merely be part of a routine rotation of forces, similar to one that took place in south China a year ago. A troop realignment could even be dictated by the Chinese military's deep involvement in the domestic political situation.

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NOTES

USSR: The Soviets launched two ABM interceptors from Sary Shagan yesterday, probably modified versions of the Galosh missile. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] This was the second test of the modified Galosh in eight days and the 12th test detected since the test program began in August 1968.

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NATO: Secretary-General Brosio has called for an informal meeting of the senior Allied representatives on 24 March to discuss the implications for the Alliance of President Nixon's recent report on US foreign policy. Last month Brosio told the US representative that he regards the report as a signal to him personally and to the Europeans in general to start serious thinking about the need for Europeans to play a larger role in the future of the Alliance. Brosio's call for a meeting was favorably received and is an indication of the keen interest at NATO in assessing the impact of the report on Western European defense strategy.

USSR - West Germany: Neither side offered anything new during the opening session of the Bahr-Gromyko talks last Tuesday, according to West German Ambassador Allardt. Bonn had hoped the pause in the talks, which allowed the two negotiators to confer with their respective governments, might result in new Soviet proposals. Moscow apparently expected the same thing from the West Germans. There may not be any movement at the Moscow talks until both sides get a chance to assess the Brandt-Stoph meeting.

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